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STATISTICAL BUREAU

# Life Membership

IN THE

## Woman's Mission Boards

Meaning and Possibilities

By Rev. Emily K. Bishop



Woman's Mission Boards of  
the Christian Church

DAYTON, OHIO

# Life Members for Missions

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BY REV. EMILY K. BISHOP

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*"With good will doing service, as unto the Lord."—Eph. 6:7, 1.*



THE Life Members are separated from each other by physical distance, but are united in the Woman's Mission Boards in the Holy Spirit, and each one can be a shining light for missions.

They are thus linked together in the work for missions and the rolls of the names of these helpers, past, present, and future, are permanently preserved.

## A Vital Force

In addition to the financial help which the membership fees of \$10.00 for the Home Board and \$25.00 for the Foreign Board afford, life membership gives increased interest in the missionary work of the Christian Church. Life members will watch the mission receipts and expenditures, and when there is a need for more funds they will be quick to ask, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do," and "How can I influence others financially?" Consequently they will help in every way possible the general missionary collections of the church and Sunday-school, the emergency funds, the regular and the special funds of the woman's boards, the thank-offering and self-denial funds. They will personally practice and advocate tithe-giving and systematic benevolence for the advancement of the kingdom of Christ.

## Missionary Activity

They will prayerfully seek to do work for Jesus—as officers of the Woman's Missionary Boards and local Missionary Societies, leaders of the Glad Gleaners Bands and the Young People's Missionary Societies and Superintendents of Missionary Cradle Rolls, and helpers and advisers in the Junior, Intermediate and Young People's Christian Endeavor Societies. They will be among the first to move in organizing missionary societies, if none exist near them, and by their effort and example the membership may be speedily enlarged, and they will not forget the mission band and the missionary cradle roll for the children. Being helpers in missionary activities they will help to lay foundations for a mission-enthused church in the future. What greater fields of usefulness can Christ's followers desire?

## Mission Study

Life Members presumably will experience an increasing desire for missionary information and become eager members of study classes, and readers of missionary books and periodicals. The horizon of their minds will thereby be broadened; their love and reverence for Christ deepened. Their lives may become beautified by the same Almighty Power that took the poor boy, Hudson Taylor, and filled his soul with the divine energy so that by faith he established the China Inland Mission, through which enterprise thousands have been won to Christ.

They may be influenced by the lives of such women as Mary Agnew, who was for forty years a missionary in Persia and was called the "Mother of a thousand daughters," because so many of the girls in her school were Christianized under her influence and work. They can learn that our own missionaries are of the same heroic

stock, and that their zeal and tact and energy and consecration are accomplishing like successful service for God and precious souls.

### Memberships

There are differing classes of memberships. The fees are ten dollars in the Woman's Board for Home Missions and twenty-five dollars in the Woman's Board for Foreign Missions. These are secured in various ways. Any one may take a membership in her, or his, own name; a husband for his wife; a parent for a child; a society for the president, or for some member, or other person. The funds for memberships should be special contributions for that purpose, but *should never be taken from the regular dues of the missionary societies.*

### Continuous Service

Life membership means, not only interest in the promotion of Christ's kingdom in one's small environment, but it contains in it that which was in the vision of the apostle John on the isle of Patmos: "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people," (Rev. 14: 6.) Neither does it mean for a short while only, during the visit of a missionary, or while hearing a stirring address, or a pathetic appeal, but a life-long interest that like the foliage of the ever-green tree lasts from year to year.

### Members in Memoriam

These are taken out by relatives, or friends, as a loving tribute that thus the name of the dear departed one may be united with the mission workers and the contribution help to make the extension of the

work possible. The money for these (the Memorial Memberships) should be designated to the permanent fund.

### Honorary Members

Are men who desire to assist financially in the work of the Woman's Boards and by this are entitled to take part in the deliberations in the meetings and act on committees and as advisers in plans for the work. They are also honored with a Life Membership Certificate.

### Cradle Roll Members

There is need for a generation of mission workers trained from earliest childhood. This is such an ideal form of service that it seems reasonable to believe that many people will gladly contribute the money to make beloved children life members. Pictures of children of twelve years and under, who are made members, will be printed in *The Christian Missionary* when the photograph and age is sent with the ten dollars for the Home Board, or the twenty-five dollars for the Foreign Board.

### Working Membership

The regular life members have all rights and privileges officially as the permanent members. This can be made a blessed fellowship by uniting in prayer for one another before the throne of God.

### The Certificates

Are an adornment to any home and they serve as a reminder of the broad and beautiful fellowship in missions with the most consecrated men and women of the Christian Church, and with our beloved missionaries in their several fields.

## Intercessory Missionaries

Life members can have a bond of companionship by the observance of the 9 o'clock A. M. prayer hour of the Woman's Boards, praying day by day for our Missionary Boards, and Local Societies, and the Young People's and the Children's Societies, for the salvation of the world, for the enlargement of the work in our mission fields at home and abroad, for the pastors in the home churches and the home missionaries, the foreign missionaries and the native helpers, that the Holy Spirit may imbue them to make Christ known to sinful men, and that "the Lord of the harvest may send forth laborers into His harvest."

By giving of their time, their money, and their prayers, life members become co-workers with Christ, who said, "As the Father hath sent me, so send I you." Thus fulfilling the last commission of the Savior, "Go ye and teach all nations," they will become *live* members, accepting the missionary opportunity as a trust given them individually by the Father.

May every Life Member be numbered among the "willing hearted." Exodus 35: 22, 25, 26.